

and supported those individuals who, as opposition leaders, journalists or human rights advocates, act upon their own human rights to defend the human rights of others, indeed those of all citizens. This was evident in his support for efforts by many of us to hold accountable those who were truly responsible for the murder of Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov, or his suggestions on how best to respond to the assault on the citizenry today in Belarus.

Those of us who have engaged through the OSCE PA will miss having George Tsereteli leading our debates from the dais, but I am sure we will continue to have opportunities to work with him in his future endeavors. I am also sure that, passing the gavel to Peter Lord Bowness of the United Kingdom as OSCE PA President, he has left a healthy institution in capable hands. As the Assembly undertakes this leadership transition, I want to assure my colleagues here in Congress and in the OSCE PA of my own enduring commitment to advancing the interests of the United States and of its many friends and partners throughout the OSCE region.

On a more personal note, I consider myself blessed to call George Tsereteli my friend. He has mentored me, encouraged me, and given me extraordinary opportunities to be a voice for my constituents and our nation on the international stage. George's humor and kindness have enriched my life and the lives of all those who have been fortunate enough to cross his path.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in saluting the service of George Tsereteli as the longest serving leader in the history of the OSCE PA as well as recognizing the importance of continued Congressional engagement with the Parliamentary Assembly of the OSCE.

IN RECOGNITION OF HON. MARCY
S. FRIEDMAN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Justice Marcy S. Friedman. For the past three decades, Justice Friedman has capably presided over New York City courts. Justice Friedman was appointed as a Judge of the Housing Part of the Civil Court of New York City in 1991 and was elected to the Civil Court in 1994. In 2000, Justice Friedman was named a Supreme Court Justice by designation and assigned to the New York County Supreme Court, Civil Branch, to which she was re-elected in 2004. In 2012, Justice Friedman was named as a Justice of the Commercial Division, Supreme Court, Civil Branch, New York County. For the past few years, Justice Friedman has served as the Residential Mortgage Backed Securities Judge, working on some of the most complex cases in the courts.

Justice Friedman is a graduate of Smith College, magna cum laude, and of the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, cum laude. She was an associate with Willkie, Farr and Gallagher LLP, a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society Civil Division, and a managing attorney at MFY Legal Services.

Starting in 2000, Justice Friedman presided over an Individual Assignment Part in New

York County, where she handled torts, commercial case, and a wide variety of other cases, including employment discrimination, insurance, and real estate. Justice Friedman is a long-term member of the New York County's Center for where she has handled mass torts, including pharmaceutical and asbestos cases.

Long committed to improving access to justice, Justice Friedman is a member of the New York County Lawyers Association (NYCLA) Justice Center and a former member of the NYCLA Board of Directors. With the Justice Center, Justice Friedman chaired a Task Force on Housing Court. She also worked with NYCLA and other groups to organize a conference that brought together a distinguished group of prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges and scholars to address the racial impacts of criminal prosecutions of arraignments through sentencing. Justice Friedman has also lectured at the New York City Bar Association and at judicial seminars on various issues, including legal ethics and torts.

After decades of dedicated service, Justice Friedman will be retiring on December 31, 2020. Her tenure has been highlighted by diligent scholarship and thorough review of complex cases. Justice Friedman's notable ability review and synthesize conflicting decisions has been an asset to the New York County Court, and she will be missed.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments of Justice Marcy S. Friedman and expressing appreciation for her contributions to the people of New York.

HONORING SENIOR MASTER
SERGEANT TIMOTHY J. THIELE

HON. JOHN W. ROSE

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. JOHN W. ROSE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to a true patriotic Tennessean and American, Senior Master Sergeant Timothy J. Thiele. Sergeant Thiele will retire from the Tennessee Air National Guard later this month after 31 years of dedicated service to his state and nation for which I offer him my most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

Tennessee has long been known as "The Volunteer State," a nickname that was first heard after Tennessee sent a large contingent of soldiers to help fight the British during the War of 1812. The moniker was solidified and forever etched into the history of our state in 1846 when Tennessee was asked to send 2,800 soldiers to help fight the Mexican-American War, but over 30,000 Tennesseans volunteered to go.

Sergeant Thiele's 31 years of volunteer military service is a modern manifestation of that proud Tennessee legacy of honor and sacrifice during which he deployed overseas eleven separate times as a part of Operations Iraqi Freedom, Enduring Freedom, Inherent Resolve, Freedom Sentinel, and New Dawn. Closer to home, and as a part of its unique dual role, the National Guard is often called into action to provide relief and assistance during ruinous natural disasters. Sergeant Thiele was an important part of such efforts on

three separate occasions when Hurricanes Gustav, Rita, and Katrina devastated regions of our country. His valiant efforts and those of his fellow Guard members saved lives and eased the pain inflicted by the storms' destruction on countless fellow Americans.

I would be remiss if I didn't properly note that the families of our men and women in uniform also sacrifice much, especially when their loved ones in the military deploy overseas. Two-parent families suddenly become one-parent families in a practical sense, with the obvious burden that ensues. Sergeant Thiele's wife of 20 years, Tyran, along with his children Tanner and Addison, sacrificed along with him during his deployments, albeit in different ways. Military families understand all too well the sacrifice represented by missed birthdays, holidays, and other special occasions while their loved ones are separated from them in service to their country. For this I want to extend my sincere thanks to Sergeant Thiele's family as well for their own dedication and service to our nation.

As Sergeant Thiele rose through the ranks during his career, he personally trained hundreds of AeroMed Evacuation personnel in Tennessee in addition to leading multistate joint medical training efforts. He became known as a "proven leader" and a "superior role model" by his own superiors, and I couldn't agree more. It is truly an honor to represent this genuine, modern day patriot in the United States Congress.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Senior Master Sergeant Timothy J. Thiele on his retirement, in thanking him and his family for their sacrifice and service, and in wishing them well in all their future endeavors.

MOROVIS NATIONAL CEMETERY
DEDICATION CEREMONY

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Madam Speaker, democracies like ours are heavily supported by military service undertaken by their citizens. In the United States, soldiers rally under the flag to risk life and limb to defend our liberty and the ideals that define our country. The responsibility the U.S. Congress assumes to send them to war cannot be taken lightly, particularly when their service also weighs heavily upon their family and community. A weight that is disproportionately heavy upon the shoulders of the Puerto Ricans who have valiantly and honorably stepped forward to serve in harm's way without enjoying full representation in the U.S. Congress.

Upon separation from the Armed Forces, Congress honors the military service of its men and women by approving legislation that authorizes a wide variety of benefits through the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs. Of all these benefits, one that due to its solemn nature faithfully demonstrate the eternal gratitude of this nation towards its citizen soldiers is the interment of their remains in national cemeteries. For those citizen soldiers that give the ultimate sacrifice while in service and for

those who after returning to civilian life succumb to sickness or age, the federal government has provided an extensive net of national cemeteries where they are laid to rest with honor and allow us to fulfill the solemn oath that their service to the nation will never be forgotten.

In fulfillment of that oath, today I have the honor to recognize the dedication of the Morovis VA National Cemetery, located within the boundaries of the Municipality of Morovis in my beautiful island of Puerto Rico. Strategically located in the northern side of the island and surrounded by an inspiring and peaceful tropical landscape, it will provide the perfect setting to honor our fallen soldiers while providing a protective sanctuary where their families and friends can remember their lives and mourn their passing.

In the coming years, as the warm and moist earth of Morovis, Puerto Rico slowly embraces the remains of the valiant citizen soldiers who sailed to the far-flung battlefields of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, the Middle East, and many other locations; and for those that will follow on their steps in the defense of liberty, let's not forget that the quest to achieve full rights and equality within the American democracy is seeded with their blood, sweat and tears. Their sacrifice compels us to continuously strive to demolish any barriers that impede the enjoyment of Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of happiness for all the citizens of our great nation.

REINTRODUCTION OF H.R. 8768,
THE "KEEPING AMERICA'S EN-
ERGY RESOURCES MOVING ACT"

HON. RANDY K. WEBER, SR.

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today, with my fellow Texan, Congresswoman SYLVIA GARCIA, to bring attention to my bill, H.R. 8768, the "Keeping America's Energy Resources Moving Act," a bill that would solve a thorny issue that has arisen in the U.S. lightering industry, and which affects our nation's energy independence and our national security. A bipartisan group of House members have worked with the House Judiciary Committee, the State Department, and Customs and Border Protection to raise awareness of this critical problem and to identify a solution acceptable to the House, executive agencies, and industry groups. I am grateful for the considerable work put in by my congressional colleagues, the House Judiciary Staff, and affected industry groups to craft this legislative fix, and I hope that the House will act soon to make it law.

For those who do not know, lightering is the use of "lighter" vessel to load and off load crude oil and natural gas from very large tanker ships whose draft is too deep to access U.S. port facilities. Lightering vessels and the seafarers who work onboard these vessels are key to supporting and maintaining our domestic energy exports and ensuring imports of needed crude oil as feedstock for our domestic refiners along the Gulf Coast, in Southern California, and in Delaware. That is why the industry is vital to the transport of crude oil and natural gas both in and out of our domes-

tic ports, the lifeblood of the American energy and petrochemical industries. This industry quietly forms the connective tissue that has enabled American energy to power the world. Without the ability to ensure that lightering can take place, there could be crude oil shortages for U.S. refineries resulting in the lack of production of gasoline for our cars, jet fuel for our planes, and heating oil to heat U.S. homes in the winter. It is just that simple.

The problem in question stems from the disconnect between the visas that seafarers rely upon and the necessities of the employment contracts of lightering crews. These seafarers must transit through a U.S. port of entry and remain on board their vessels operating in and out of U.S. waters for up to 180 days in order to perform their tasks as part of a lightering vessel crew, but, under current law, they can only remain for 29 days without being granted parole by Customs and Border Protection—a cumbersome administrative process allowed under U.S. law but one we should not have to rely upon. A fix is needed to replace this band-aid approach. By providing statutory authorization for liquid lightering crewmembers to transit the United States for up to 180 days, this bill will streamline a cumbersome multi-agency process and ensure that the domestic energy production and refining capacity that underlines our economy and national security can continue. For this reason, and this reason alone, we introduced legislation to solve this problem and provide certainty to this industry, and thus to our economy.

Unfortunately, we are now in the closing days of the 116th Congress and have run out of time to enact this technical, but necessary, legislative fix. Therefore, I plan to reintroduce our bipartisan bill, the "Keeping America's Energy Resources Moving Act," in the opening days of the 117th Congress, and I remain committed to solving this problem then.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I was absent for votes on December 16–17, 2020. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 244 (S. 2216); and YEA on Roll Call No. 245 (H.R. 3250).

RECOGNITION OF CHRIS GUINAN

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Chris Guinan, a Philadelphia difference-maker, before the United States House of Representatives. Mr. Guinan has become a symbol of the can-do neighborly spirit that is the embodiment of The City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection.

Since 2011, Mr. Guinan, aided by his wife, Cindy, his son, Christian, his daughter, Lauren, and his granddaughter, Sophia, has successfully donated 1,000 bikes to children

throughout Philadelphia who previously lacked this essential mode of transportation and freedom.

Mr. Guinan achieved this remarkable feat through a combination of years of his own hard work—finding and fixing a great many of these bikes—and the generous donations of others, including his colleagues at SEPTA, where he worked for 30 years until his retirement.

Chris Guinan embodies a commitment to the public good. His efforts to make life better for Philadelphia's children are a model for the upwelling of selflessness and giving that has kept America going through these difficult times. He embodies the spirit of Philadelphia—and of America.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Chris Guinan for his—and his family's—extraordinary work on behalf of our community.

IN MEMORY OF MICHAEL CETINA

HON. SEAN CASTEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 18, 2020

Mr. CASTEN of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and mourn the untimely passing of Michael Cetina of Wheaton, Illinois. Mike passed away unexpectedly on Thanksgiving Day.

Mike's full and productive life touched so many and he will be deeply missed. His family lost their beloved husband, father, and brother, many lost a great friend, and Wheaton lost a pillar of the community.

As a lawyer, Mike's work ethic and commitment to upholding the law and advocating for the vulnerable was an inspiration. Early in his legal career, Mike represented the people of DuPage County as an Assistant State's Attorney, and for the last 30 years he has advocated on behalf of those who were needlessly injured or killed through negligence or neglect. He was very active in the legal community, where he led, mentored, and taught other lawyers. Throughout his legal career, Mike demonstrated diligent, passionate and ethical professionalism.

Also an outstanding athlete, Mike gave his time and effort generously to the community through coaching youth sports, including more than a decade coaching and helping lead Wheaton youth football. Mike leaves a beautiful legacy of hundreds of young athletes who learned from his mentorship, colleagues in the law who were inspired by his professionalism, clients well-served by his advocacy, and an entire community who was enriched by his friendship.

Madam Speaker, Mike Cetina was an outstanding man, and I ask that the House join me in expressing our profound gratitude for his life and service, and our deepest sympathy to his wife of 33 years, Tammy, to their children, Danny, Tori, Allie, and Tommy, and to the people of Wheaton, for this tremendous loss.